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RURAL DISTRICT OF ROMNEY MARSH

KENT

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1953



ROMNEY MARSH RURAL DISTRICT, KENT

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer
of Health and Sanitary Inspector for
the year, 1953.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report
for the year, 1953.

The Registrar General estimated that the mid-year Home
Population was 4,336 - an increase by 48 over that of the
preceding year.

The number of births was 68, compared with 69 in 1952,
and the birth rate was accordingly 15.68; adjusted by the
Registrar General's Comparability Factor this becomes 18.19;
that for England and Wales was 15.5. The birth-rate, therefore
is being maintained slightly above the average.

The number of deaths was 41, and the equivalent rate
was 9.96; adjusted by the Registrar General's Comparability
Factor for the comparison with other Districts, this becomes
8.46. The rate for the year, therefore, was low; that for
England and Wales was 11.4.

The chief cause of deaths was due to Heart and Circulatory
or Vascular Diseases, mostly amongst the aged.

The next cause, as expected, was due to Cancer. There
having been 9 deaths; the ages at death were 48, 53, 61,
68, 69, 71, 73, 74 and 82 years. Early diagnosis is the
best criterion for successful treatment - but the insidious
nature of the disease and procrastination by patients are
common factors, amongst others, that are involved.

The other causes of death were miscellaneous and there
was no exceptional incidence.

It is pleasing to record that there were no infant
deaths and no deaths amongst mothers due to pregnancy,
childbirth or abortion.

There were no deaths due to Infectious Disease.

62 cases of Measles were notified. This highly
infectious disease is endemic amongst children but
fortunately it is not usually dangerous apart from occasional
complications, the most common being Broncho-pneumonia and
otitis media. Gamma globulin is available at the County
Laboratory for use to prevent or attenuate an attack when
this is indicated; e.g. when an exposed susceptible child is
in poor health or suffering from another illness.

Only two cases of Whooping Cough were notified. It is
hoped that the claims being made, that the most recent
vaccines are effective immunising agents, will be substantiated
and that it will eventually be eliminated by immunisation, as
with Diphtheria.

Six cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. Five of those
were mild and were treated at home, and the other was treated
in hospital. The disease, in its present phase, is usually

mild and often is difficult to distinguish from the mild form of German Measles. In cases of doubt, throat and nose swabs should be taken for the presence or absence of the Haemolytic Streptococcus and when a school-child is treated at home, 'release' swabs should be taken before the child returns to school, as small epidemics have occasionally been caused by convalescent carriers.

Three cases of Sonne Dysentery occurred in a Hostel. The infection was introduced by a primary case who was admitted during the incubation period of the disease, but appropriate measures prevented its spread to the other residents of the Hostel.

Twelve cases of Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia were notified. Influenza, per se, is not a notifiable infectious disease, and Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia may in fact be caused by an indefinite variety of unidentified viruses or rickettsiae; for example, serological examination of former patients has established that a number of them had actually suffered from Q. fever, which can cause an atypical pneumonia and research has shown that Q. fever is not uncommon in the Marsh, especially at the lambing season, when the rickettsiae are propagated from infected sheep; a further report will be given when the investigations have been completed.

One case of Erysipelas was notified. but this disease is not now regarded in a serious light as an infectious disease per se, and treatment by sulphonamides or antibiotics is very successful

Two new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified. Unlike other Infectious Diseases there is no definite incubation period for the Tubercle Bacillus and for this reason it is difficult to trace a local source of infection, but not unfrequently the source has been traced to a latent case in the family group or in a group where the patient is employed. It would seem that B.C.G. vaccination has been established as an effective immunising agent and should be of great preventive value, particularly for children contacts, whether in infancy or adolescence. Mass Radiography surveys are also of great value in the ascertainment of unsuspected or latent cases and occasionally of open infective cases.

There were no cases of Non-respiratory Tuberculosis which is an index that the milk supplies, 4 of which are pasteurised and 1 Tuberculin-tested, were biologically safe.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you for your interest and assistance and the staff for their efficient co-operation.

Your obedient servant,

J. MARSHALL.

SECTION A.STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICTFOR 1953

Area:- 31,031

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-

The Resident Population 4,336

Number of Inhabited Houses According
to the Rate Books

1,944

Rateable Value:-

... .. 27,252

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate £110

Social Conditions

Romney Marsh Rural District is almost entirely engaged in Agriculture which is the only industry and common interest in the community. Part of the boundary is formed by the sea with wide expanses of sand, and here where there are holiday camps, camping sites and sea-side dwellings, the inhabitants cater for the requirements of the many holiday-makers. There is negligible unemployment and social conditions are generally satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

		<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		<u>Romney Marsh Rural Dist.</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
1.	Live Births	68	39	29	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	15.68	15.5
	(a) Legitimate	67	38	29			
	(b) Illegitimate	1	1	-			
2.	Stillbirths	3	2	1			
	(a) Legitimate	3	2	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	42.25	22.4
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
3.	Deaths	41	23	18	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	9.96	11.4
4.	Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion.	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	-	0.76
5.	Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age.	-	-	-			
	(a) Legitimate	-	-	-			
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births					-	26.8
	Rate re legitimate infants					-	
	Rate re illegitimate infants					-	
6.	Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					9	
	Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					-	
	Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea					1	
	Death from Measles					-	

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year 1953.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	6
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	62
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	3
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	1

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ROMNEY MARSH RURAL
DISTRICT DURING 1953

					<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
ALL CAUSES					23	18
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	1	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	-	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	...	...	1	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast		...	...	-	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	1	3
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	...	...	1	4
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	7	1
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	-	-
20.	Other heart diseases	...	...	...	6	1
21.	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	-	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	-	-
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	1	-
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	-	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	1	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	1	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	-	3
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	-	-
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	1	-
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	-	-

Immunisation against Diphtheria, 1953.

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1953, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1939).

<u>Year of Birth</u>	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1949 - 1953	28	29	21	44	41	47	41	59	62	58	71	76	43	45	5	670
1948 or earlier	17	15	11	7	4	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	62

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox, 1953

<u>(A) Diphtheria Immunisation</u>																
<u>Year of Birth</u>	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	Total
Primary Inoculations	5	42	6	1	-	6	3	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	65
Re-inforcing Inoculations	-	-	-	-	7	47	14	3	5	2	2	9	-	-	-	89
<u>(B) Vaccination</u>																
Primary Vaccination	22	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Before 1939 1 40
Re-Vaccination	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2 3

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality 1953

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>				<u>Total cases on Register</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non- Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non- Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non- Respiratory</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	8	2	1
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Total	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				

Report of Building Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector

There were no changes in staff during the period 1st January, 1953 to 31st December, 1953.

SECTION C.Sanitary Circumstances of the Area1. Water Supply

The water supply in this area is by:-

- (a) The Folkestone Waterworks Company - Parishes of Dymchurch and St. Mary-in-the-Marsh.
- (b) The Mid-Kent Water Company - Remaining seven Parishes.

2. Sewers

Council were authorised to carry out preliminary trial borings and detailed survey for the Main Sewerage Scheme. The work to be started in 1954.

3. Public Cleansing

A weekly refuse collection is made in the coastal area, and a fortnightly collection in the remainder of Romney Marsh. A special trade refuse collection is made at a charge of sixpence per dustbin.

During the year 1,150 cesspools have been emptied comprising 1,960 vehicle loads. As before two free emptyings are given in each six month period.

4. Sanitary Inspection of the Area

<u>Premises Inspected</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
<u>Accumulation found</u>	5
<u>Complaints re keeping of Animals</u>	
Fowls, pigeons etc.	2
<u>Complaints</u>	
Total number investigated (All Premises)	81
<u>Dairies</u>	
Dairies and Milk Shops	31
<u>Disinfection</u>	
Number of houses disinfected	6
Number of other buildings disinfected	-
<u>Disinfestation</u>	
Number of houses	4
Number of other premises	-

Premises InspectedNo. of InspectionsDrainage

Number of drains found choked, defective or overflowing	23
Number of drains inspected	99
Number of drains tested	36

Dwelling Houses

Number of inspections re repairs	75
Re-inspections	37
Number found dirty	5
Number found verminous	4

Infectious Diseases

Visits re infectious diseases	10
Visits re Q Fever investigation	40

Factories

With mechanised power	21
Other premises to which Section 7 applies	8

Food Premises

Ice Cream Premises	47
Bakehouses	7
Other Food Premises	41

Samples of Milk taken for Bacteriological Examination

Satisfactory	22
Unsatisfactory	6
Biological	3 negative

Miscellaneous Visits

Number of visits not otherwise classified	41
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<u>Shops Act</u>	71
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<u>Tents, Vans, Sheds and Camping Sites etc.</u>	36
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Water Supply

	<u>Bact. only</u> <u>Treated</u>	<u>Bact. & Chem.</u> <u>Raw</u>	
Number of samples	13	2	
Satisfactory	13	-	
Unsatisfactory	-	2	
Visits re water supply			19

Rodent Control

Inspections made	340
Infestations dealt with January to December	84

5. <u>Building Byelaws</u>	436
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6. General

Inspections made in carrying out the general duties of Surveyor to the district in respect of Housing Estates, Refuse Collection, Cesspool Emptying etc.	753
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7. Housing Programmes No. of Inspections

Visits re housing applications	87
Houses completed	46
Houses Demolished	6
Houses Closed under the Housing Act, 1936.	3

8. Milk Supply

The supply of milk within the area was found on the whole to be satisfactory. Routine re-decoration of dairies has been carried out. A number of samples were taken during the year in connection with the investigation of Q Fever which was carried out by the Ministry of Health in this area.

9. Ice Cream

34 samples were taken throughout the district. 27 of these samples were Grade 1, five were Grade II, two were Grade III., and Nil Grade IV.

10. Building Licences

23 licences were issued for the erection of private dwellings and completed throughout the year.

11. Plans

Number of Planning Applications dealt with under Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, submitted to this Council were 71.

Classified III and dealt with by the Kent County Council	13
Classified II and I and dealt with by this Council	58

One Appeal was lodged with the Ministry of Town and Country Planning. The Planning decision was upheld in this case.

12. Mortuary

With regard to the Council owned Mortuary, the following case was dealt with:-

Total number of cases.	1
Number on which Post Mortem have been carried out.	Nil

FACTORIES ACT, 19371. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	12	21	2	-
i) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	8	-	-
TOTALS	16	29	2	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	3	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	4	3	-	2	-

MEMORANDUM

TO : THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

FROM : THE CHIEF OF STAFF

SUBJECT: [Illegible]

1. [Illegible]

2. [Illegible]

3. [Illegible]

4. [Illegible]

5. [Illegible]

6. [Illegible]

7. [Illegible]

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9. [Illegible]

10. [Illegible]

11. [Illegible]

12. [Illegible]

13. [Illegible]

14. [Illegible]

15. [Illegible]

16. [Illegible]

17. [Illegible]

18. [Illegible]

19. [Illegible]

20. [Illegible]

21. [Illegible]

22. [Illegible]